IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JUL 1 8 2006

Applicants: Y. KANEDA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/073,007

Filed: February 12, 2002

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPERATION AND

MANAGEMENT OF STORAGE APPARATUS

Group: 3627

Examiner: J. S. McClellan

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 July 18, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 18, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification

Amendments to the Claims

Remarks are included following the amendments.